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## GIVING UP SMOKING.

What It Costs to Stop the Use of the Seductive Weed.

Francis A. Hoffman, Jr., and Attorney Law were standing on Clark street about five years ago, each smoking a cigar. Hoffman said so much smoking was killing him. Law bantered him to swear off. Hoffman accepted the challenge. To make it more binding they concluded to have their final smoke then and there. Hoffman bought two cigars for a dollar, selecting the strongest he could find. When they had consumed about half of each cigar Hoffman threw his into the street, and Law, after some protest, did likewise. Hoffman went home, and the old habit of smoking a cigar just before retiring came back to him. The more he thought of his agreement to not smoke the more did his appetite for a cigar appeal to him. He grew nervous, and walked out of the house and down to the lake. He wandered about the shore like a lost spirit on the banks of the Styx, and finally sought a drug store. He hung up the night clerk and begged for something to put down his demand for tobacco. The clerk furnished him with some ginseng root, and he went home. He lived through the torture for six months. At the end of that time he had a dream. He dreamed that he was smoking again, and when he awoke his system was racked with pain. He was undergoing the torments which made Dr. Quincy mad. He was sure he had been smoking again, and would not believe any lying to the contrary until he was assured by one who had seen him retire that he had not. Slowly he conquered his appetite for the weed. He carries a cigar in his pocket now, and takes it out often to look at it. He tempts himself, but has no desire to return. He claims that his capacity for work is greater than when he was addicted to the habit; that his health is good, his memory better, and his disposition sweetened. He can be found on the street or in his office preaching the doctrine of total abstinence on the tobacco question, and is willing to take the hangings to proclaim against the evils of the weed.  
—Chicago Tribune.

## THE CHINESE ALMANAC.

Its Great Mission Is to Give Information of a Prospective Future.

The great value which the Chinese attach to their almanac is shown in many ways. Recently the Chinese residents at Lhasa, in Tibet, implored the Emperor to cause arrangements to be made which would enable them to receive their copies of the almanac at the earliest possible date in each year. A writer in a recent issue of the *Chinese Recorder* says that the most important book to the Chinese is the almanac. Its space is far too important to be occupied with the matter which fills Western almanacs. It contains astronomical information which is useful, but its great value is to give full and accurate information for selecting lucky places for performing all the acts, great and small, of every-day life. "And as every act of life, however trivial, depends for its success on the time in which, and the direction (i. e., the point of the compass) toward which it is done, it is of the utmost importance that every one should have correct information available at all times to enable him to so order his life as to avoid bad luck and calamity, and secure good luck and prosperity. Consequently, the almanac is perhaps the most universally circulated book in China." The writer speaks of it as a terrible yoke of bondage, and the sale of all almanacs but the authorized one is prohibited. Quite recently a new Chinese Minister to Germany refused to sail for his post on a day which the almanac declared to be unlucky, and the departure of the German mail steamer was consequently deferred at the request of the German Minister to Peking.  
—St. James Gazette.

## The Church of Self-Sacrifice.

The most beautiful church I ever saw—or ever expect to see, until I worship in the "house not made with hands"—is not a full-grown church; it is only a chapel—a small, low building, put up at the expense of about a thousand dollars. It is beautiful, because the cellar wall is a free-will offering from poor farmers who had a right to claim a winter's rest after a busy harvest season, because each timber of the frame-work represents hours of hard toil in making aprons and bolsters by the sale of which to raise a few dollars—hours needed for rest of some mother's weary head and tired hands; because every claspboard tells of a pipette of tobacco less for the father; every shingle, a cup of coffee less for the mother; and, therefore, and every nail, a stick of candy less for the child. It is beautiful in containing an organ, while there are no organs in the homes of the givers; in having pictures on its walls, though there are black in its carpeted floor, while the floors of the donors are bare.  
—Anna F. Sanford, in *American Magazine*.

## Baby's Play-House.

Thinking it hardly possible some mother had not heard of this invention for keeping babies quiet, I made up to present it. Take a wooden box and line it inside with soft cotton batting, tacked on securely with headless tacks so no hurt can ever come from them, then cover with cloth, bringing it up to the outside of the box and tacking it on the edges. Paper the outside of the box with ordinary wall paper, putting a border round the bottom and up and down the corners. Fasten the top with a plaited ruff tacked on with brass-headed tacks. Bore holes in the side of the box, put a rug or quilt and pillow in it, put a baby in with his playthings. If your baby is high as it should be, he can't climb out, he can't tip it over, he can't pop through the holes to play "peek-a-boo" with you as you go about your work, and if you have to leave the room for a minute he is safe. With his playthings and an occasional smile and word from mother, he will pass a good many contented hours in his box.—*Ladies' Home Journal*.

## ATTRACTIVE FASHIONS.

Description of a Pretty Model for an Inexpensive Dress.

I have just seen a gray cashmere dress, which struck me as particularly stylish, and it was very simple, too. The goods were laid in box plaits upon the front and side breadths, while the back hung straight and fell over three cords to make it set well. There was an apron draped high and only covering the front breadth. The bodice was plain and fastened in the sleeves and neck. The young lady who wore this pretty dress was a tall blonde, and her hair was gray straw with a large bow of white satin ribbon.

Now, I don't know a prettier model than the above for an inexpensive dress, and there are several points which the girls who do their own sewing will see at a glance. First, the straight drapery, only needing two or three cords to make it hang just right, and which is much easier to arrange than the old steel drapery. Don't gather the back breadths to the band, but lay side plaits in the center and a box plait each side. If you can not make beautiful button-holes, you will appreciate the full puff and fluff. This vest, or rather puff, can be sewed to the collar, which may fasten at the side. Of course the front and side breadths may be plain instead of plaited.

Plain Swiss muslin never looks very well after being laundered, but a dress of figured muslin may be done up a number of times. Make a yoke, waist, and have front and side breadths of embroidered muslin and felt back breadths of the figured goods. Wear a snub of muslin or ribbon. A pair of white muslin sleeves that have shrunk in washing can be enlarged by adding a row of muslin insertion between the outside seams.

The prevailing shape in bonnets comes to a peak in front, and is a moderate "joke." Place a wreath of small flowers on the brim, then add a few light bows of flannel and strings to make it. But this is an easy way to trim a bonnet? I saw a little poke of brown straw with yellow wheat laid around the brim, and bows and strings of brown tulle. A poke of black straw with a velvet lining and bows of velvet ribbon. Such a hat is very useful if trimmed entirely of black, and you can have an extra bow of some bright color to pin on occasionally.

Wraps grow smaller, and now you only need a bit of silk for the front and back, and a row of deep lace for sleeves. I have seen a wrap like the above, made to match a light-colored dress, and I suppose it was some protection to the wearer's shoulders.  
—Philadelphia Press.

## THE COMING METAL.

Aluminum Soon to Take the Place of All Forms of Iron.

A director of some of the Alabama mines, a Mr. Chamberlain, thinks that sooner or later, and not very late at the latest, the mining of iron ore and the manufacture of iron will be superseded by cheap processes for the extraction of aluminum from common clay. This metal is three times as strong as steel, he says, and but one-third as heavy, and has thus the double advantage over iron of being lighter and being capable of better service and being more easily handled. But it costs \$500 a ton now, and it is used in a few only of the lines of manufacture that it could easily fill. Altogether, it would be the greatest and strangest of all the changes that science has wrought in the material of manufacture if this aluminum mining master should be realized. Iron has been, at least, since the "bronze age," if there ever was such a condition of developing civilization, the most valuable and indispensable of all the products of the interior of the earth. There is no form of life, no process of manufacture, no method of industry that does not need or use iron or steel. To omit it from its metallic sovereignty would be a greater change than the displacement of wood fuel by coal, or of coal by natural gas. The new metal would be the very material for ship-building, for its specific gravity is less than that of iron. It was discovered by the German chemist, Woebler, in 1825, and re-examined in 1846; but its production, to any extent, dates from the experiments of the French chemist, Deville. It is a white metal, like silver, but with a bluish tint. It is more malleable and ductile than iron, is strong in tensile strength, and takes a high polish. It melts in a furnace heat, and is easily cast into any form. It does not rust in moist air like iron, and does not oxidize like lead or zinc. No gas tarnishes it. When fused and cast into molds it is as hard as silver. Hammering hardens it as hard as iron. But it is only one-third of the specific gravity of iron. Its light weight caused Napoleon III. to have the eagles on his standards often being made of it, taking off two-thirds or more of the weight with an angle of the same size. It is very sonorous and rings with a musical tone when struck in such a shape as to allow vibrations. It forms very hard and valuable alloys with copper and gold, the latter being much used for jewelry and various forms of ornamental work. A metal of so many and so valuable qualities, and existing in inexhaustible amount in one of the commonest of all natural forms of matter, clay, as well as others, less abundant, but quite as abundant as iron ore, probably, will certainly be brought into more general use by the scientific developments of the age.—*Indianapolis News*.

## A Prospective Housekeeper.

Clara's Intended—Where is Clara this evening? "I don't see her about." "Where is Clara?" "She is out in the kitchen." "May be so; I dunno." "What are they doing in the kitchen?" "They are making some candy with walnuts in it." "Is Clara making it?" "She is helping a little, that's all." "How so?" "Mamma can't find the nut cracker, so Clara has to crack the walnuts with her teeth." "Ah, yes!"—*Times Dispatch*.

## NEW YORK FASHIONS.

Fl. by Paragraphs on Themes Pleasing to the Fair Sex.

Skirts are growing wider, but the difference is made entirely in the back widths. New black-silk jerseys, elaborately braided, fasten with one button, and then round off over a vest of white pilot cloth closed with handsome pearl buttons.

Bodices of this material suitable for evening toilets are smocked front and back at the waist and shoulders. Another style is shirred on the shoulders, and crosses at the waist in surplice fashion, showing a V insertion front and back, made of tulle covered with pearl embroidery.

Basques are lavishly trimmed, and are exhibited in countless varieties. Velvet basques, to be worn with light skirts, have a Pompadour neck filled in with erve, which also forms the puffed sleeve below the velvet one vandyked at the elbow. A neat design for a dressy costume shows a basque open in a slight V in the neck above a silk tucker. The basque then fastens with three buttons, and below this is cut away over a silk vest that is long on the hips, and extends around to the sides of the bodice. The silk composing the tucker is usually white or ecru.

Jascan, butternut, primrose and daffodil are the leading colors in yellow this season. A new shade of pink is called Venus, and a new shade of red Khedive. In violets, the rosy tint known as wisteria is the only fashionable tint, the rage for the heliotrope shades having subsided. The newest greens are the asphetic, Florentine and bronze shades, with a pale shade in relief like tulle, or willow with yellow tints, clear light Nile green, and also the dark moss, myrtle and cypress colors.

Many stalks, long stems, grasses and sprays are noticeable among the importations of French flowers this year. White and pink rose garlands, lilyacines, jonquils, long-stemmed violets, tulips in every color, carnations of pink and white, ragged sailor, bean and potato blossoms, elderberry blossoms, lilacs, four o'clocks, heather and sprays are needed to give the effect of allegories. Where garlands are preferred, are shown in many long wreaths and chaplets of English and American ivy. Wild mountain vines, ferns, wheat heads, oats, barley and rye in green and brown coloring—combined with blossoms and birds of every color and kind.

Bodices which have the sides prolonged into puffs, that fall straight from the belt to the hem of the skirt, will be a feature of costumes again next season. The style is far too becoming to women of stout figure to be relinquished. These long, straight panels are, in fact, very graceful upon most women; and upon handsome white dresses of sheer cool, or of organdie, India muslin, batiste, and the like, will be shaped and decorated in various novel ways. These panels are noted upon tea-gowns of China silk, foulard and tulle, very recently imported.—*N. Y. Post*.

## TECUMSEH'S BONES.

How a Party of Speculators Found Some Rare Indian Relics.

The search for Indian relics is said to be the most interesting one, and the finds sometimes valuable. But, as a rule, farang pays better. Besides, one is not always sure that what he uncovers is pure gold, as it may be recent, and that, I do not, what I have seen after. It is well remembered how, some years ago, a party of York pioneers and big-brained speculators went up Brantford way in search of the grave of Tecumseh, the great Shawnee chief, who lifted Yankee hair and any thing else which came handy in the war of 1812 or thereabouts. He was an Indian with a strong arm and a heavy hatchet, and he cut a big swath at every swing. He fought on the side of England, home and beauty, and he made the wild west show of the day just him. He is said to have been a great man, and poetry has cast his halo around him, but probably he went around in an old blanket and coat, and his square jaw like other Indians. At any rate the pioneers were anxious to get a hold of his bones, or what remained of them, and so they set about the search expedition referred to, though it did not go about, but by train. A faithful ally joined them up the country, and for a consideration offered to pilot them to the silent tomb of the red warrior, whose bones had once bent under the weight of the scalp he had taken home. After a long walk on a hot day, the alleged grave was pointed out to them, and they fell upon it with pick and shovel, and were delighted to find a portion of the bones, which they carried away to their homes. There was some doubt as to whether they had really found the grave, but they had none, and triumphantly displayed the bones as evidence of their great luck. But the bones were pronounced to be sheep bones, and they were very indignant at such an insinuation against their judgment. The papers got hold of their story, and they were again greatly worried. They demanded the names of the writers of the effusive articles, and threatened all sorts of dreadful things. But they never produced the bones again, and Tecumseh is safe wherever he is.—*Toronto News*.

## A Prospective Housekeeper.

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